



James Harold Grady

August 9, 1933 - April 25, 2026

James Harold Grady, age 92, of Amboy passed away on Saturday April 25, 2026 at Allure of Walnut. James was born to James Grady and Frances Hannon on August 9th, 1933. He attended Princeton High School and was a 1953 graduate of Amboy High School.

Jim's life was the epitome of hard work and grit. He often spoke about attending a one room schoolhouse where his mom was the teacher and the difficulty of travel to and from his education ("we had to walk uphill both ways"). He was very intelligent and a good student. However, he did reveal that instead of reading the entire book for his book reports, he would only read a little bit of the beginning, middle, and end.

He attended Princeton High School until his senior year when his family moved to a farm outside of Amboy. It was there where he met the love of his life, Lucille. When he was drafted into the Korean War, he would write letters to her often. Spending two years stationed in Fairbanks, Alaska came with enduring cold winters, enduring whatever terrible food the mess hall was serving up, and the cancellation of a free Bob Hope show (a topic he was still mad about until the end).

He finally came home and proposed to Lucille, presenting her with two rings and letting her pick. They were married on May 19, 1957 at St. Patrick Catholic Church in Amboy. As the years passed they were blessed with five children, many grandchildren, and great grandchildren. Their marriage was a testament to their strong partnership as you could always find the two working

alongside each other every fall and spring on the farm they owned in Ohio, IL. Besides farming, Jim also served as transportation director and bus driver for the Amboy School District for many years. He was kind but ran a tight ship, with the unlucky few students finding themselves at the mercy of his “bus driver voice.”

When they weren't farming, they spent time traveling. They were able to travel to Italy, Panama, Hawaii, Alaska, and Branson, but Jim's favorite place remained Ireland. Being almost 100% Irish, his heritage was immensely important to him as displayed by his consistent commitment to eating corned beef and cabbage and listening to Daniel O'Donnell.

Jim had the most impressive memory, a true gift to his children and grandchildren as he was able to pass on stories of those who were unable to tell them anymore. When asked what advice he would give his children and great grandchildren, he said “Work hard, stay away from drugs and alcohol, and the rest will take care of itself.”

He was preceded in death by his wife, Lucille, his parents, son in law Carl Alesio, and sister Eileen Palko. James is survived by children, LuAnn (Anthony) Costello of Arlington, IL, Karen Alesio of Schenectady, NY, James E. (Linda) Grady of Amboy, Janet (Myron) Leffelman of Maytown, Mike (Renee) Grady of Dixon, and 13 grandchildren, and 15 great grandchildren. He is also survived by brother in law George (Barb) Schwamberger of Franklin Grove. Funeral services will be on Saturday, May 2nd at 11:00 AM at St. Patrick Catholic Church in Amboy. Burial will follow at St. Patrick Cemetery in Amboy. Visitation will be on Saturday May 2, 2026 from 9:00 AM until 10:45 AM at St. Patrick Catholic Church in Amboy. Arrangements by the Mihm-Jones Funeral Home in Amboy. Online condolences can be left at www.thejon.esfh.com

Cemetery Details

St. Patrick Cemetery in Amboy

816 Rockyford Rd
Amboy, IL 61310

Previous Events

Visitation

MAY 2. 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

St Patrick Catholic Church Amboy
32 N Jones
Amboy, IL 61310

Service

MAY 2. 11:00 AM (CT)

St Patrick Catholic Church Amboy
32 N Jones
Amboy, IL 61310

Tribute Wall

GC

“ To the family of Mr. Grady!

I was saddened to read of your father's passing. What great memories I have that resulted from my years of coaching cross country at Ashton High School. Through the years I had the joy of getting to know the entire family. What a great set of parents you had! It was always a joy to be able to spend time visiting with them. May you all feel the peace, comfort and love of our caring God at this time and in the days that follow.

*With sympathy,
Gary Cater*

Gary Cater - May 04 at 02:14 AM

MG

“ A solid man of integrity and a great neighbor when I was a child. Condolences to the family. Mark Glenn

Mark Glenn - May 03 at 03:26 PM



“ Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the family of James Harold Grady.



May 03 at 09:18 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of James Harold Grady.

May 03 at 09:18 AM



“ Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of James Harold Grady.



April 30 at 06:58 PM



“ Kathy Loughlin purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of James Harold Grady.



Kathy Loughlin - April 29 at 07:36 AM



“ Sweet Tranquility Basket was purchased for the family of James Harold Grady.



April 28 at 08:41 PM

JS

“ *Our deepest condolences to everyone. I will remember whenever he saw someone, at school or walking past the house, he would stop and say hi. Always a kind word or joke.*

Jeff and Carol Schnaiter - April 28 at 08:52 AM

AM

“ *Audrey Murphy Brad Wacker &Melissa Maine purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of James Harold Grady.*



Audrey Murphy Brad Wacker &Melissa Maine - April 28 at 08:51 AM

DB

“ *Loved to talk farming. Always said it was the best year ever---not sure that was always true---but I believed him. The family gatherings at the shed were wonderful. He will be forever missed by all. May God bless the Grady Family,*

Dean Bodmer - April 27 at 12:28 PM